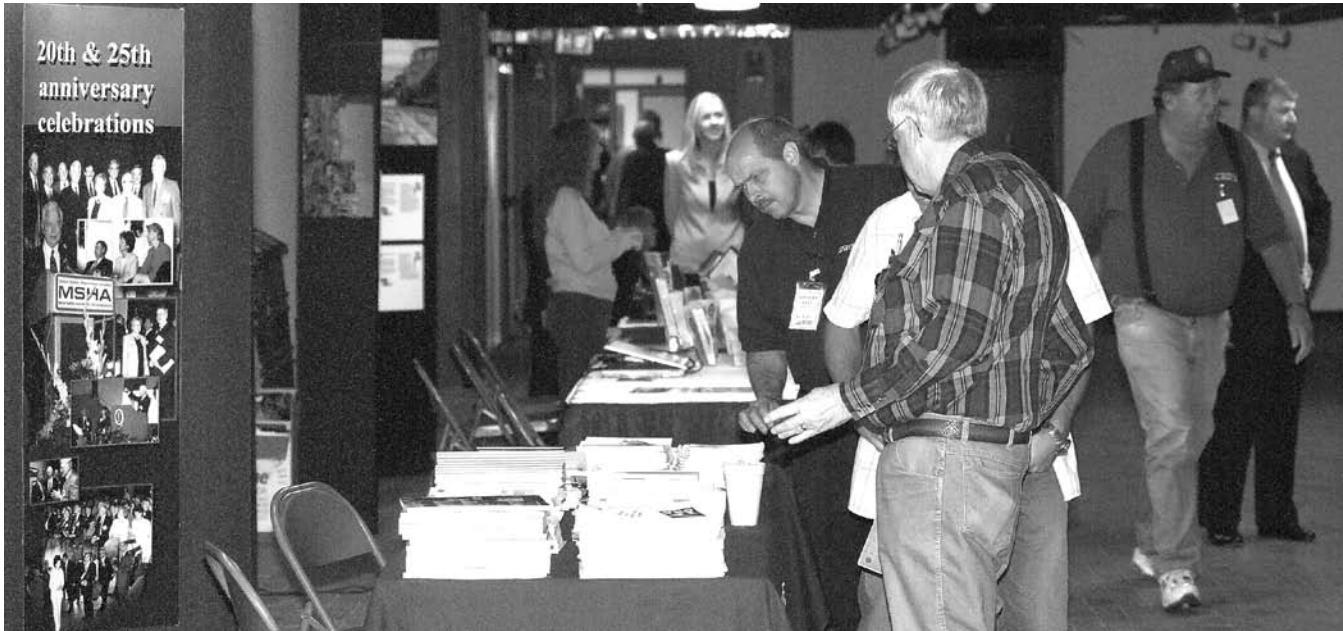


2006 Mine Construction, Maintenance, and Repairs Seminar Showcases the Benefits of Safety Alliances

by Tom Bonifacio



Construction workers, mechanics, electricians, demolition workers, welders, crane operators, riggers, and safety professionals from throughout the United States and Peru participated in the annual Mine Construction, Maintenance and Repairs Seminar held September 6-7, 2006 at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, Beckley, West Virginia.

Those attending the seminar reaped the benefits of the safety alliance between the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the International Union of Operating Engineers and the International Association of Iron Workers, which enabled the seminar to provide in-depth and hands-on presentations on 23 topics. Attendance more than doubled from last year's event.

The seminar began with a panel discussion in which ideas were discussed on how to utilize the

alliance to provide comprehensive training and safe workers for mining operations involved in construction, maintenance and repairs activities.

Members from MSHA who participated on the panel included Jeffrey A. Duncan, Director, Educational Policy and Development; James R. Petrie, District Manager, Northeastern District, MNM; Rodric M. Breland, Manager of Western Educational Field Services.

Barbara McCabe, Program Manager of the IUOE National Training Fund, National HAZMAT Program, represented the International Union of Operating Engineers, and Frank Migliaccio, Executive Director of Safety and Health for the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Ironworkers represented the International Association of Iron Workers.

Members of the audience who participated in the panel discussion provided solid, useful ideas on how to improve the seminar and activities to develop and share training material.

The seminar wouldn't have been a success without the safety professionals who gave freely of their time and resources in order to present the topics for the seminar. A pictorial review of the presentations follows:



Attendees listen to speakers at the opening day ceremony.



Attendees of the seminar listen to panelists.



Instructor gives a lecture in one of the classrooms at the seminar.



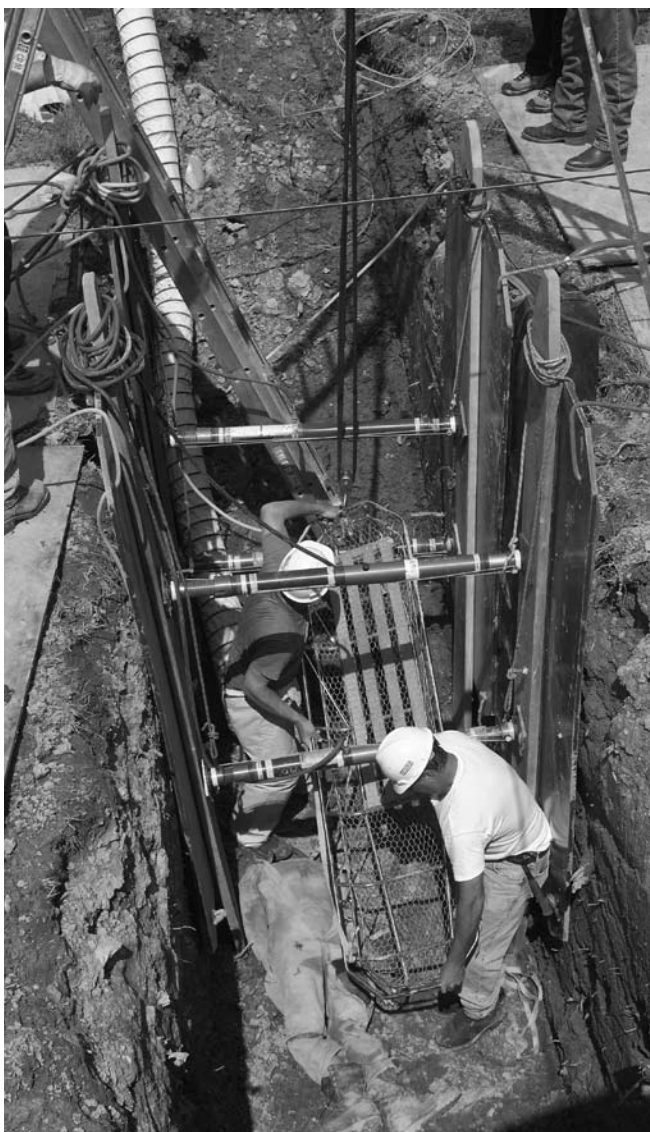
Seminar attendee presents a question to the discussion panel.



Static displays from several organizations were a part of the seminar.

(See next page)

Seminar Photo Gallery



Workers demonstrate proper rescue techniques for rescuing an injured worker from a trench.



Instructors giving out safety tips and techniques in Electrical Hazards and Personal Protection workshop.

Seminar attendees look on at the Trench and Excavation Rescue demonstration.



If you were not able to participate in the seminar this year, we want to know why. You missed an excellent seminar! The alliance wants to offer topics of value to you and your operation, and we want you here next year. Please send your comments on what we can do to get you here to:

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Instructor gives lecture on different types of rigging.

Methane gas explosion demonstration (Below). Attendees examine burn material from the explosion (Right).

